

Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a camshaft adjusting device, using an actuating drive, the method comprising:

making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in a control unit;

if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a multi-stage fault signal ~~in multiple stages~~ as a function of the system deviation; and imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication,

wherein the fault signal is generated if the system deviation satisfies a threshold condition, and

wherein a stage of greater weighting is reached with increasing system deviation.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein information of a driver concerning an occurrence of a fault takes place as a function of a stage of the fault indication.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising generating a fault indication perceptible by a driver at the latest when a stage having the greatest weighting is reached.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising generating fault indications, perceptible by a driver, that are different from each other, as a function of a stage of the weighting, a fault indication, that prompts an immediate searching out of a repair shop, being generated at the latest when a stage having the greatest weighting is reached.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein at least one stage exists in which a fault indication is generated that is stored in a fault memory in a way in which it can be read out, but is not perceptible to a driver during driving operation.

15. (Currently Amended) A control unit for operating a camshaft adjusting device of a vehicle, the control unit including a computer to which a memory device is assigned, the memory device storing a program that is able to be executed by the computer, for carrying out the following method:

making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in the control unit;

if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a multi-stage fault signal ~~in multiple stages~~ as a function of the system deviation; and

imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication, wherein the fault signal is generated if the system deviation satisfies a threshold condition, and

wherein a stage of greater weighting is reached with increasing system deviation.

16. (Currently Amended) A memory device storing a program that is able to be executed by a processor for carrying out the following method for operating a camshaft adjusting device:

making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in a control unit;

if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a multi-stage fault signal ~~in multiple stages~~ as a function of the system deviation; and

imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication, wherein the fault signal is generated if the system deviation satisfies a threshold condition, and

wherein a stage of greater weighting is reached with increasing system deviation.